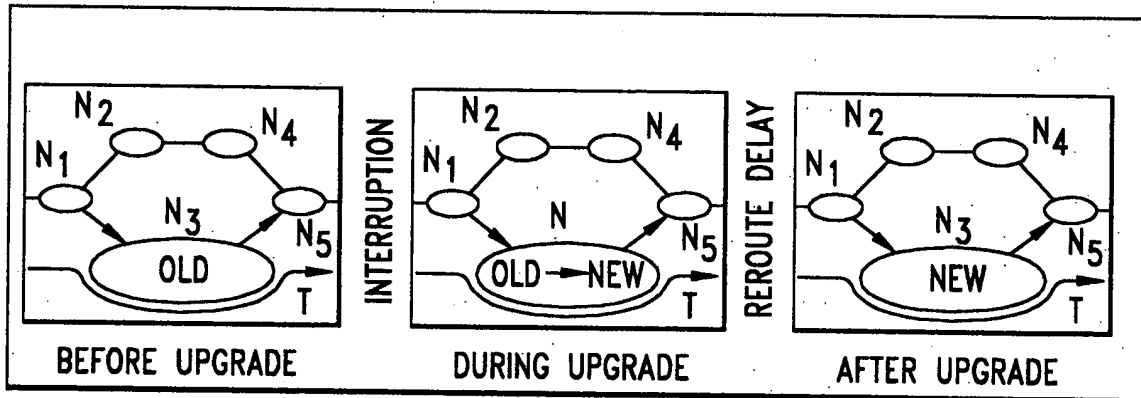


THE TRADITIONAL APPROACH INTERRUPTS SERVICE FOR UPGRADES. IF NO ALTERNATIVE PATH EXISTS, A PORTION OF THE NETWORK WILL BE DISCONNECTED DURING THE UPDATE.

FIG. 1A  
PRIOR ART



THE APPROACH DESCRIBED ALLOWS UPGRADES TO BE DONE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. THIS APPLIES EVEN IF THERE IS NO ALTERNATE PATH AVAILABLE.

FIG. 1B



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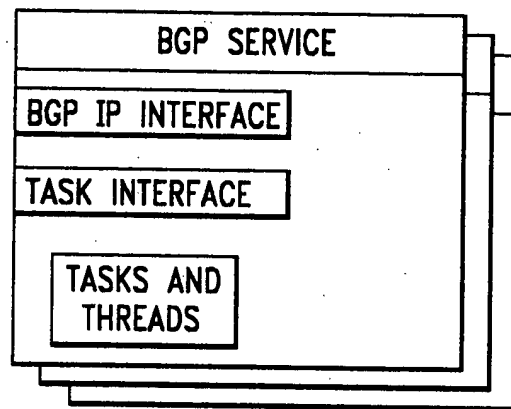


FIG. 2

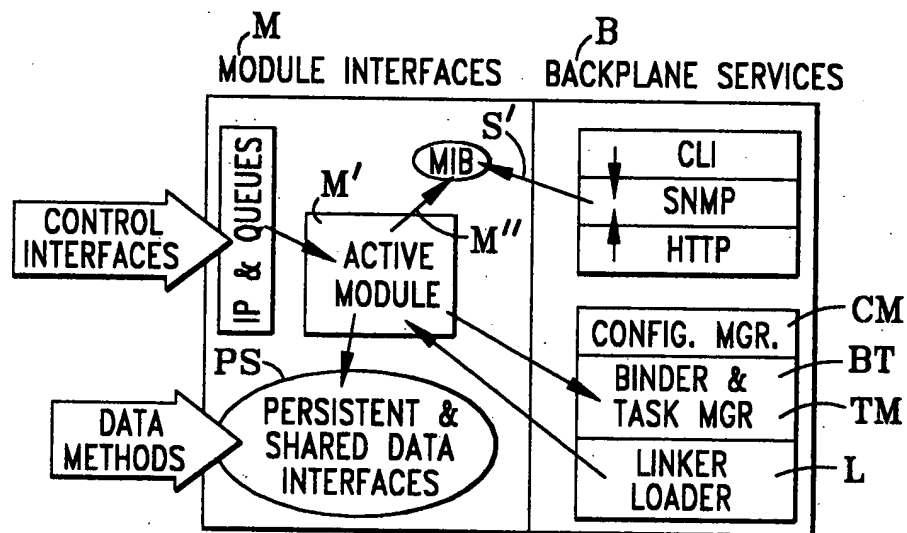
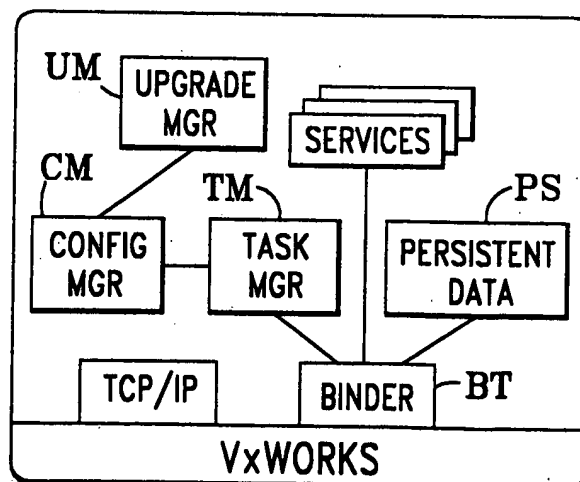


FIG. 3



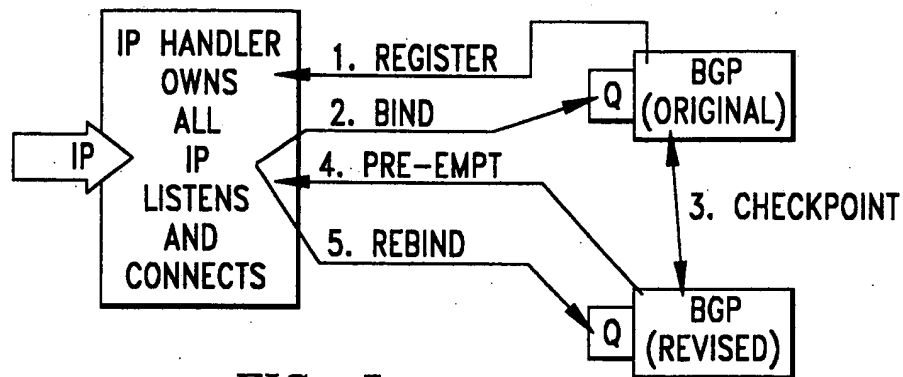


FIG. 5

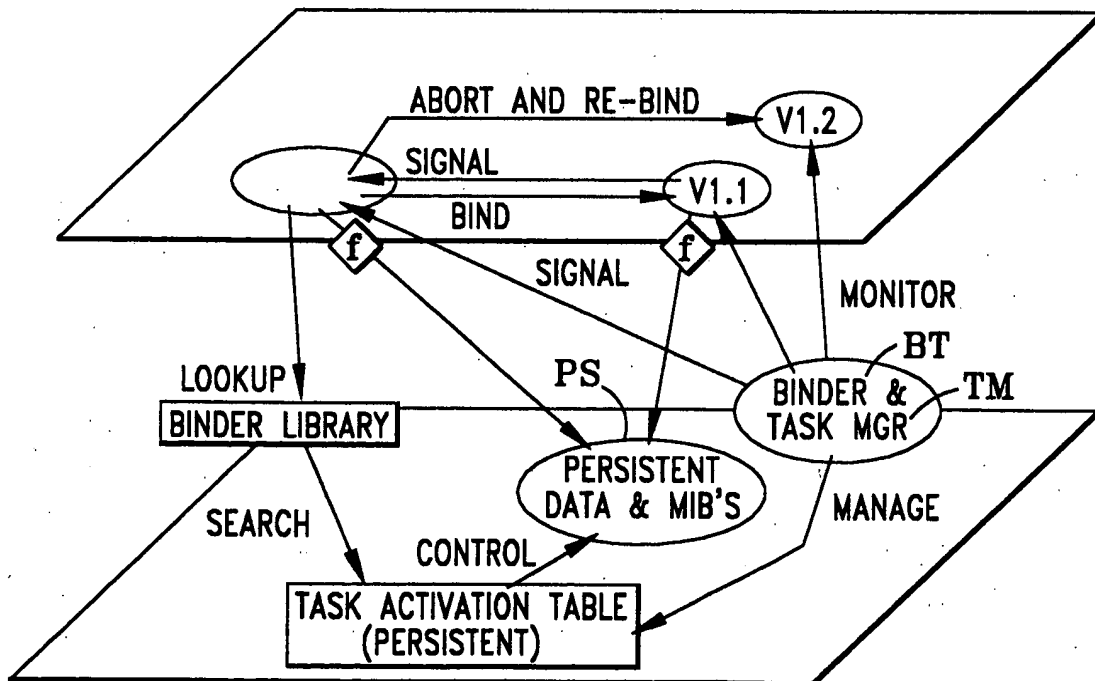


FIG. 6

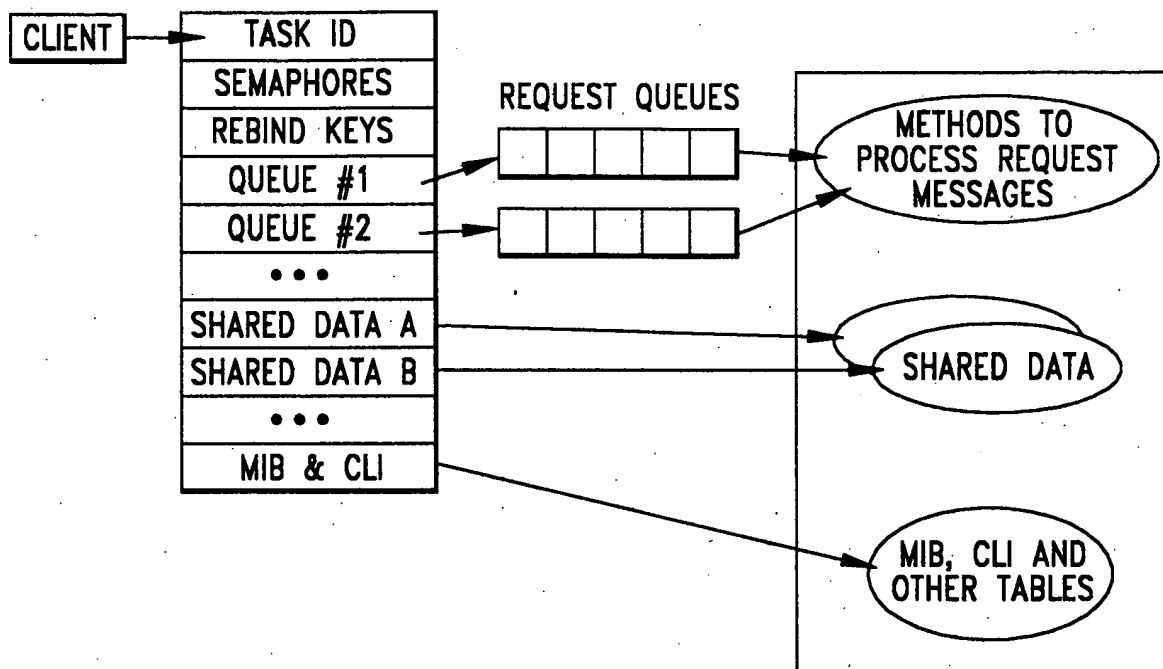


FIG. 7